

**REMARKS**

Claim 1 has been amended to call for exchanging text messages. It corresponds to some degree to previous claim 6 which was rejected based on Beach, citing column 3, lines 54-63 and column 12, lines 1-3. However, nothing therein relates in any way to enabling customers within a retail facility to be linked over a local area network via text messaging.

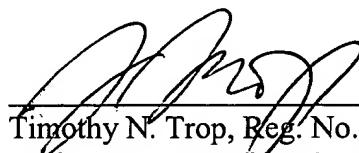
Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

New claim 26 calls for providing a network of terminals in a retail facility wherein the terminals can be activated by swiping a credit card through a slot in the terminal. This claim corresponds to some degree to claim 4 which was rejected under Section 103 based on the combination of Beach and Ogasawara. Ogasawara was cited as teaching such a card swipe system. However, while Ogasawara teaches a card swipe system in which information can be stored in the system by swiping a memory card through a slot, Ogasawara does not teach enabling access to the terminal by swiping the card through a slot.

Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection of new claim 26 is respectfully requested.

In view of these remarks, the application should now be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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